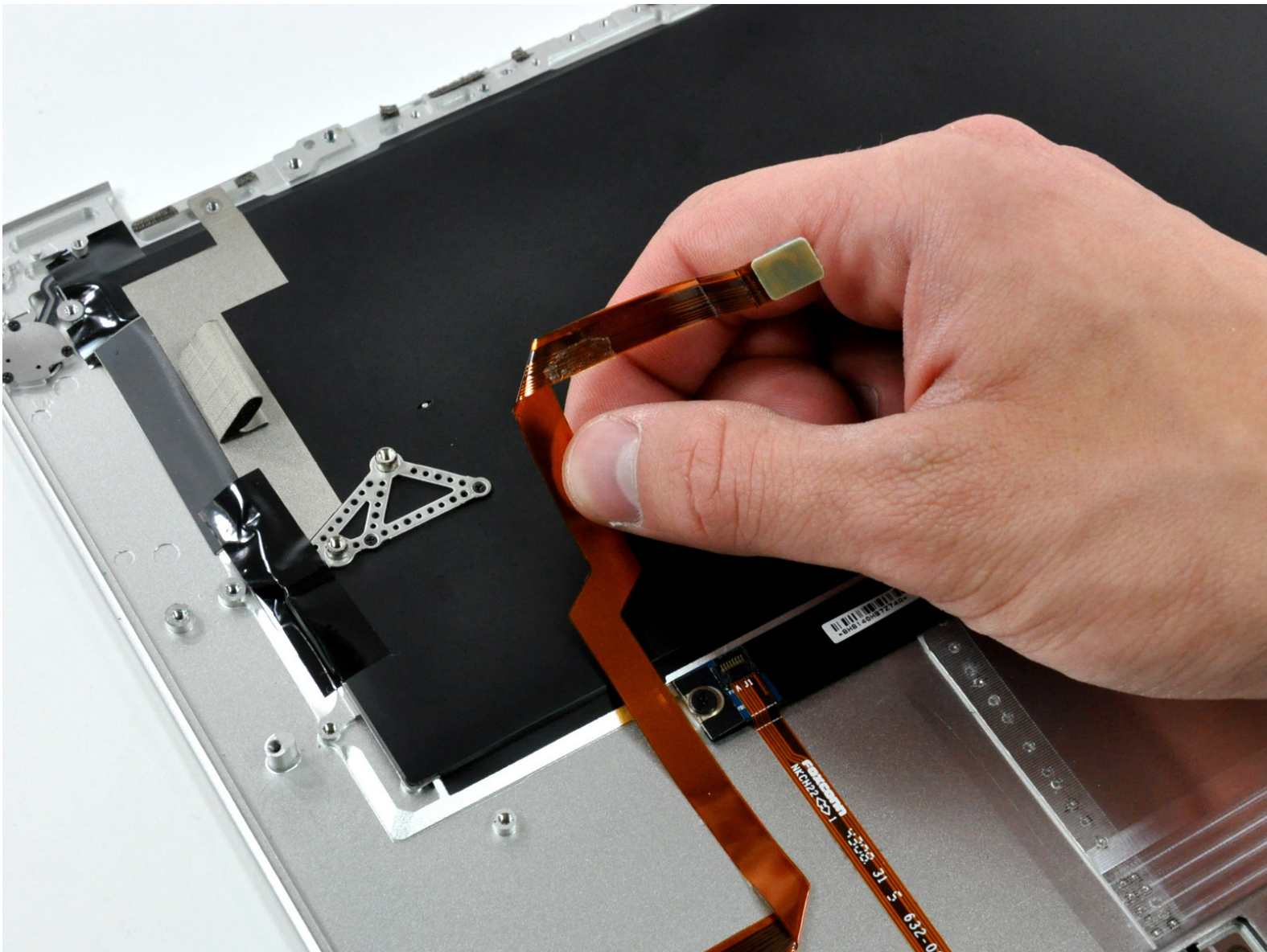




MacBook Air Models A1237 and A1304 Upper Case Replacement

Written By: Walter Galan



INTRODUCTION

Put a smile on your face and replace your upper case.



TOOLS:

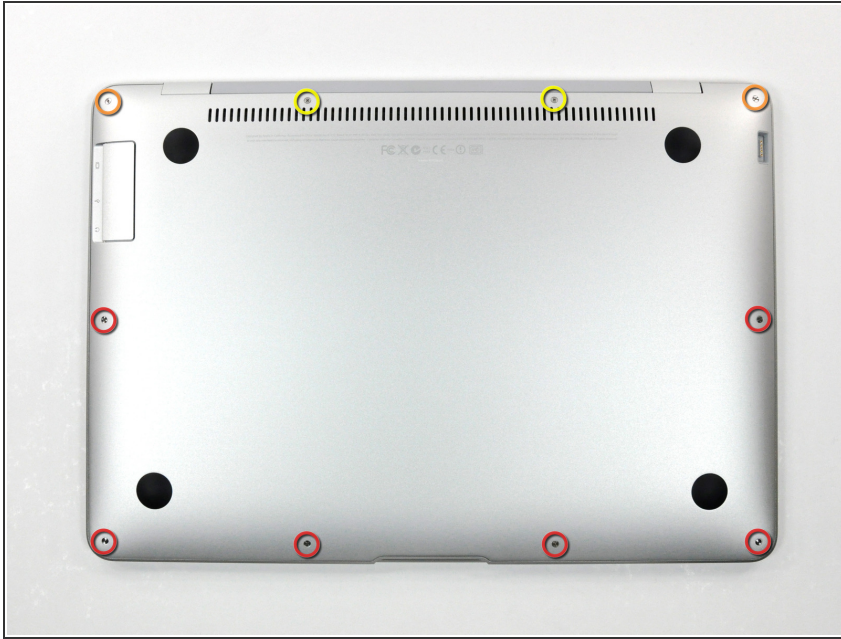
- [Arctic Silver ArctiClean](#) (1)
- [Arctic Silver Thermal Paste](#) (1)
- [Phillips #00 Screwdriver](#) (1)
- [Spudger](#) (1)
- [T6 Torx Screwdriver](#) (1)



PARTS:

- [MacBook Air \(Original\) Upper Case with Keyboard](#) (1)
- [MacBook Air \(Late 2008/Mid 2009\) Upper Case with Keyboard](#) (1)

Step 1 — Lower Case



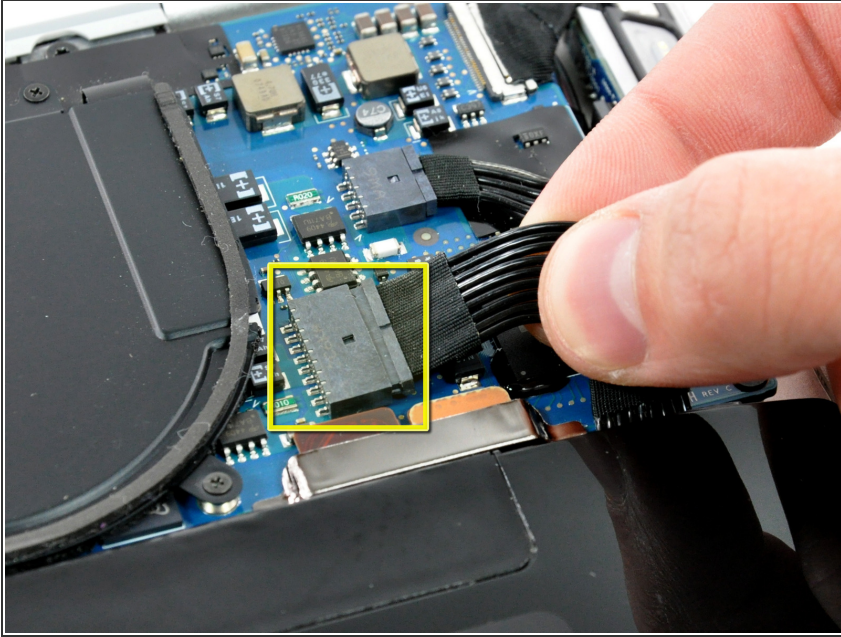
- Remove the following 10 screws securing the lower case to the Air:
 - Six 2.8 mm Phillips screws.
 - Two 3.8 mm Phillips screws.
 - Two 5.4 mm Phillips screws.

Step 2



- Slightly lift the lower case near the vents and push it toward the rear of the computer to free the mounting tabs.

Step 3 — Battery



- Disconnect the battery connector by pulling it straight out of its socket.

Step 4



- Remove the following nine screws securing the battery to the Air:
 - Four 2.9 mm Phillips.
 - Four 3.8 mm Phillips.
 - One 7.2 mm Phillips.

Step 5



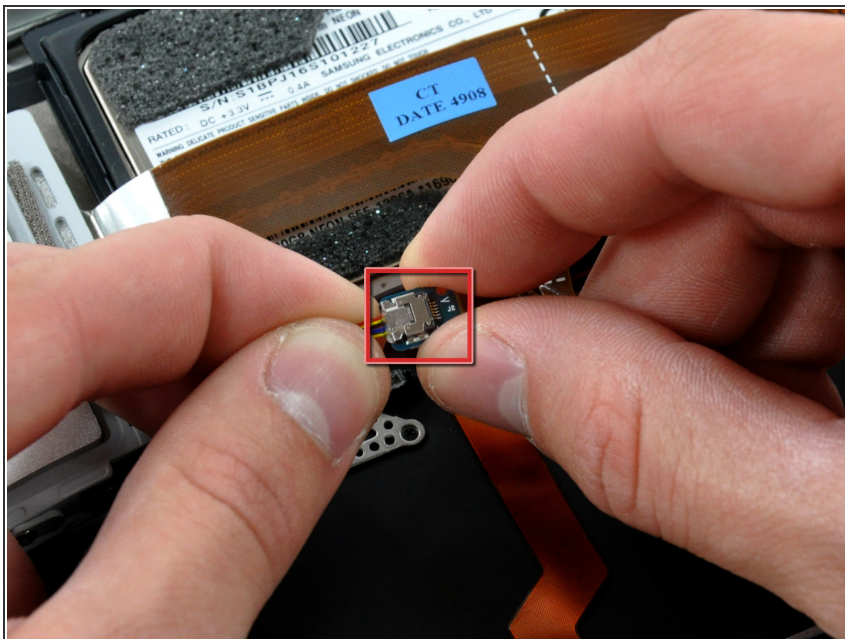
- Lift the battery out of the Air.

Step 6 — Hard Drive



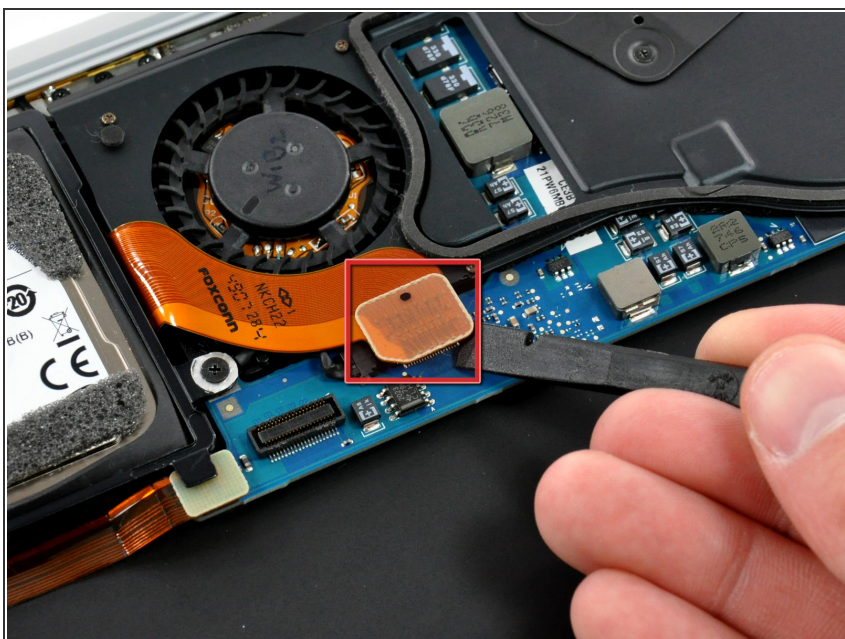
- Disconnect the port hatch ribbon cable from the logic board by pulling it straight up by its black pull tab.
- Pull the audio out ribbon cable off the adhesive securing it to the upper case.
- Use a spudger to pry the audio out ribbon cable connector board off the hard drive bracket.

Step 7



- Disconnect the audio out cable from its socket on the port hatch ribbon cable.

Step 8



- Use a spudger to pry the hard drive cable connector up off the logic board.

Step 9



- Use the sharp end of a spudger to de-route the microphone cable from the hard drive bracket.
- Remove the cosmetic screw cover from the adhesive securing it to the hard drive bracket.

Step 10



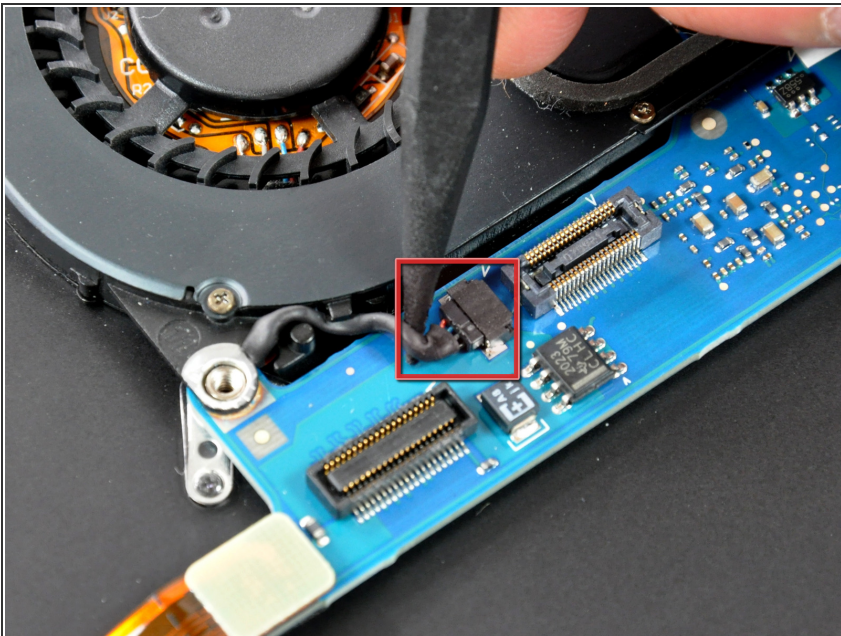
- Remove the four Phillips screws securing the hard drive assembly to the upper case:
 - Two 4.7 mm screws.
 - Two 3.9 mm screws.

Step 11



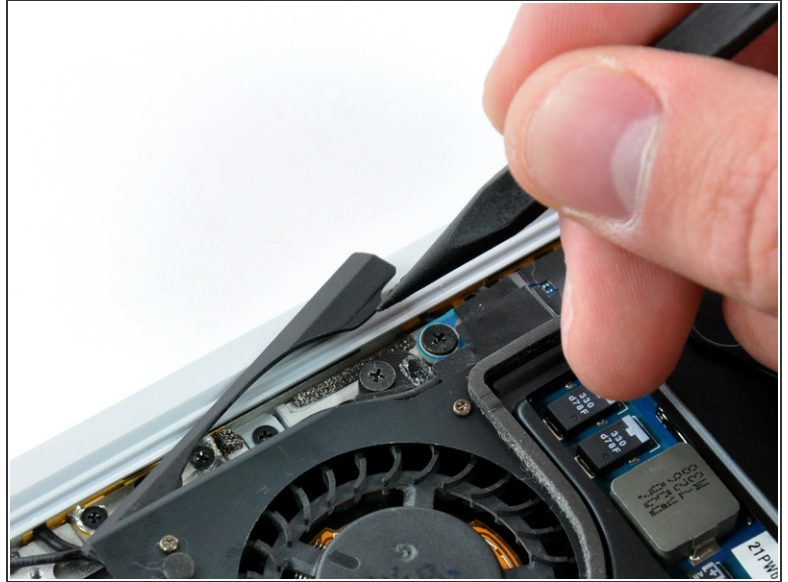
- Lift the hard drive assembly out of the upper case.

Step 12 — Heat Sink



- Use the tip of a spudger to pull the fan cable connector straight away from its connector on the logic board.

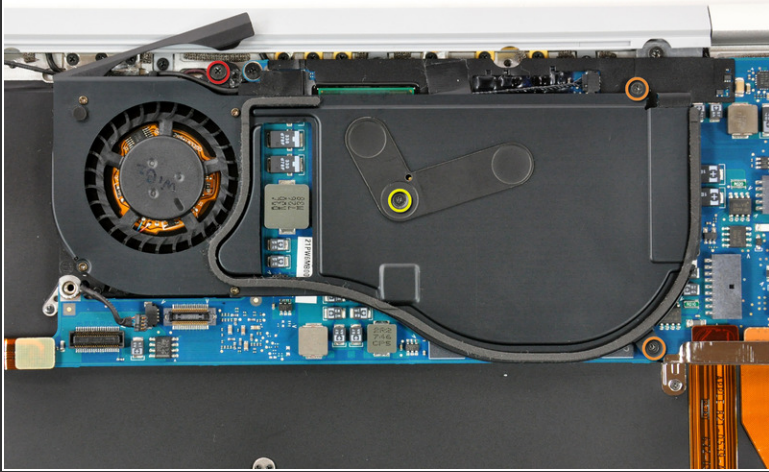
Step 13



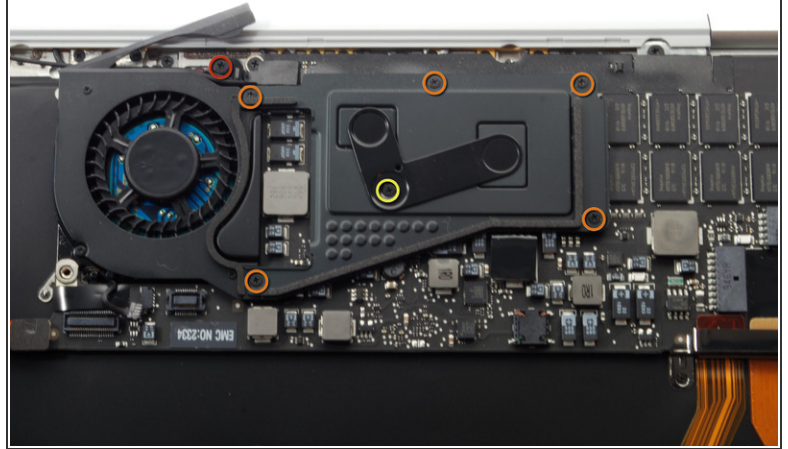
- Use the tip of a spudger to move the cosmetic fan cover aside.

Step 14

A1237



A1304



- ⓘ If you have the original version of the MacBook Air (A1237), refer to picture 1. Remove the following screws securing the heat sink to the logic board:
- One 5.9 mm Phillips screw.
 - Two 1.9 mm Phillips screws.
 - One 1.9 mm Phillips screw.
- ⓘ If you have the A1304 version of MacBook Air, refer to picture 2. Remove the following screws securing the heat sink to the logic board:
- One 5.0 mm Phillips screw
 - Five 1.9 mm Philips screws.
 - One 2.5 mm Phillips screw.

Step 15



- Lift the processor clamp off the heat sink.

Step 16



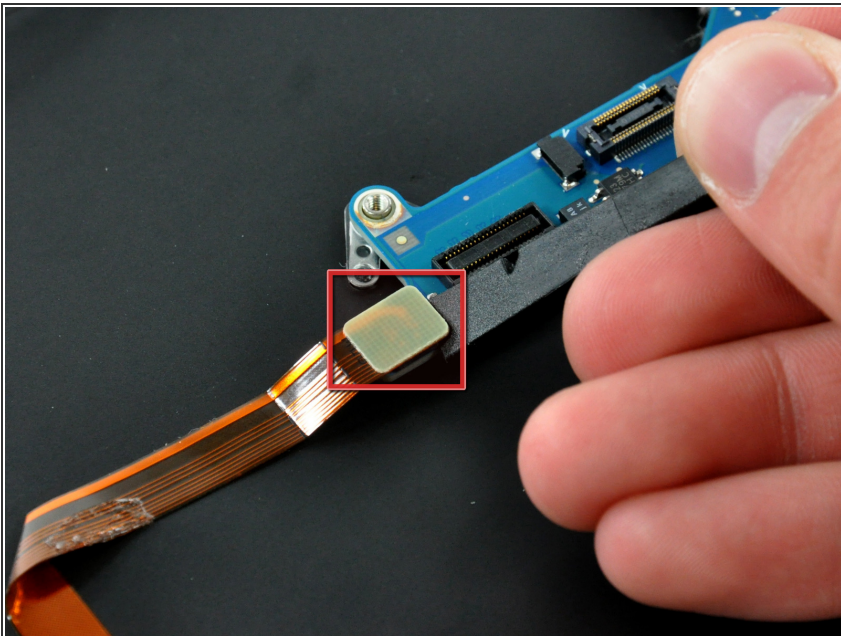
- Deroute the microphone cable away from the channel in the fan.

Step 17



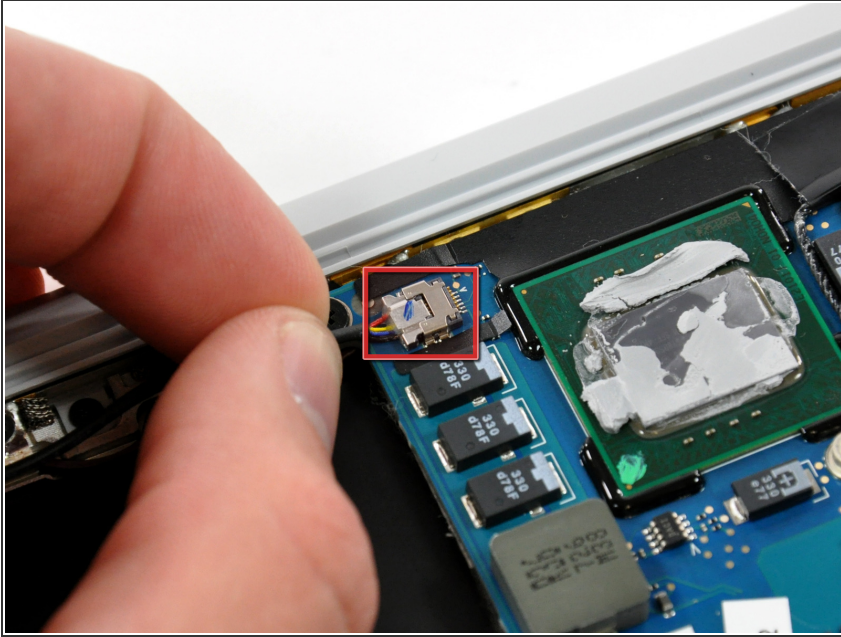
- Lift the heat sink up off the logic board.
- ⓘ Be mindful of the microphone cable when lifting the heat sink, as it can get tangled on the top edge of the fan.
- ⚠ When you mount the heat sink back onto the logic board, be sure to apply a new layer of thermal paste. We have a [guide](#) that makes replacing the thermal paste easy.

Step 18 — Logic Board



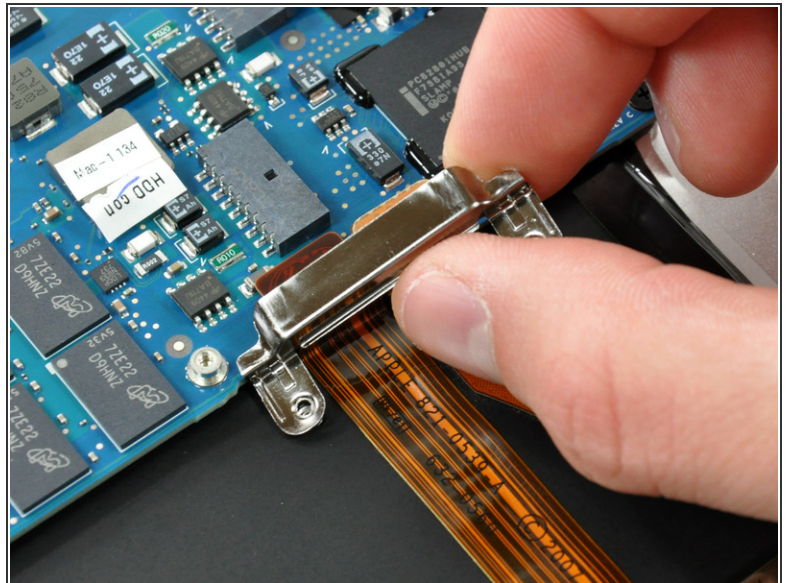
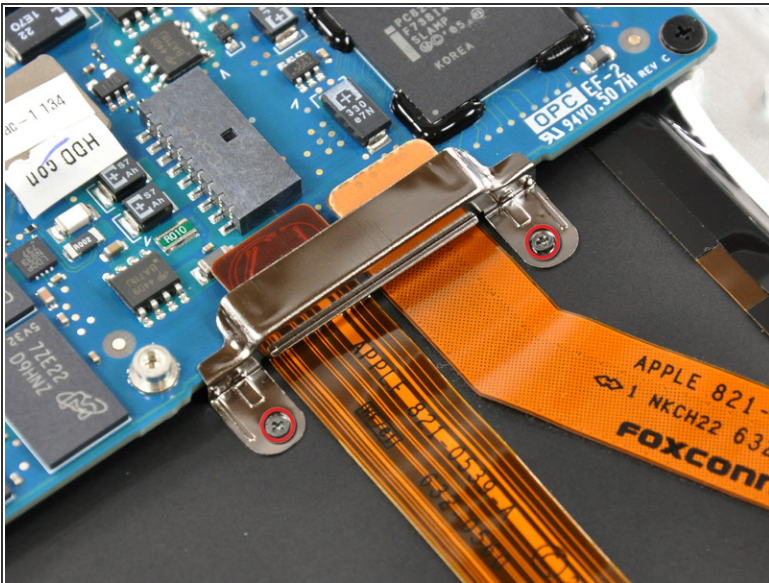
- Use a spudger to pry the audio cable connector up off the logic board.

Step 19



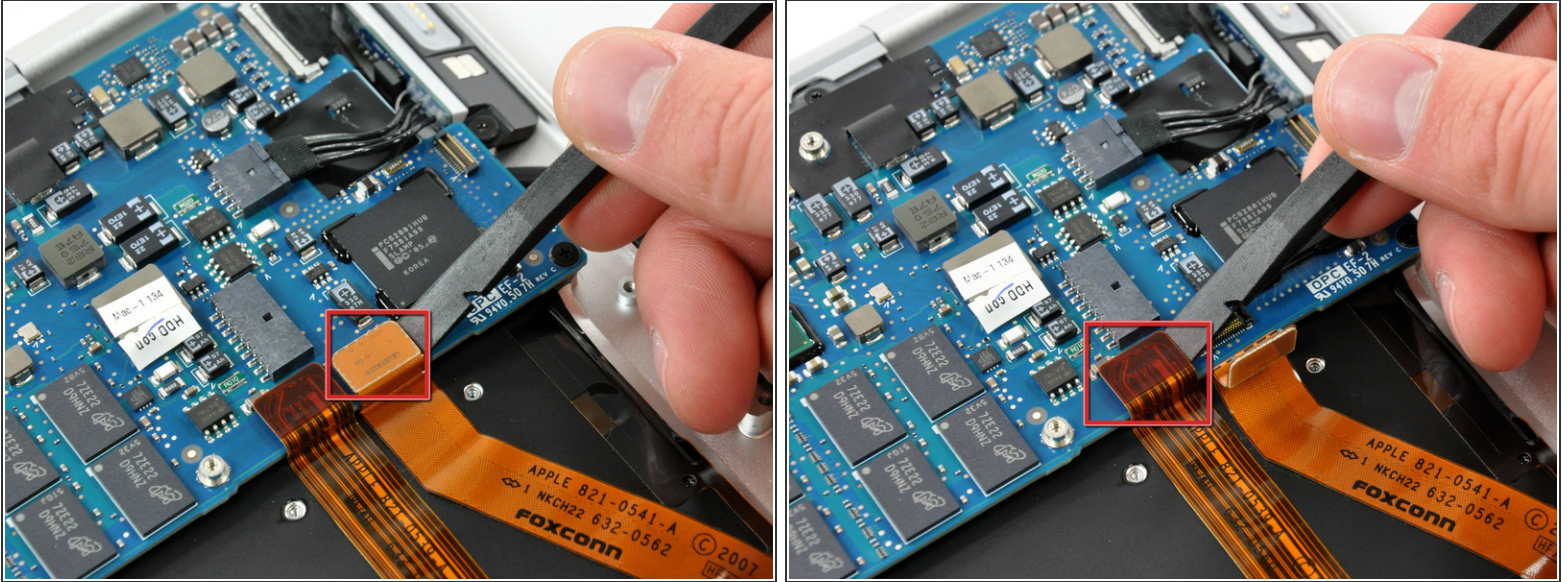
- ❗ If present, remove the small piece of black tape covering the microphone cable connector.
- Disconnect the microphone cable by pulling its connector straight away from the socket on the logic board.

Step 20



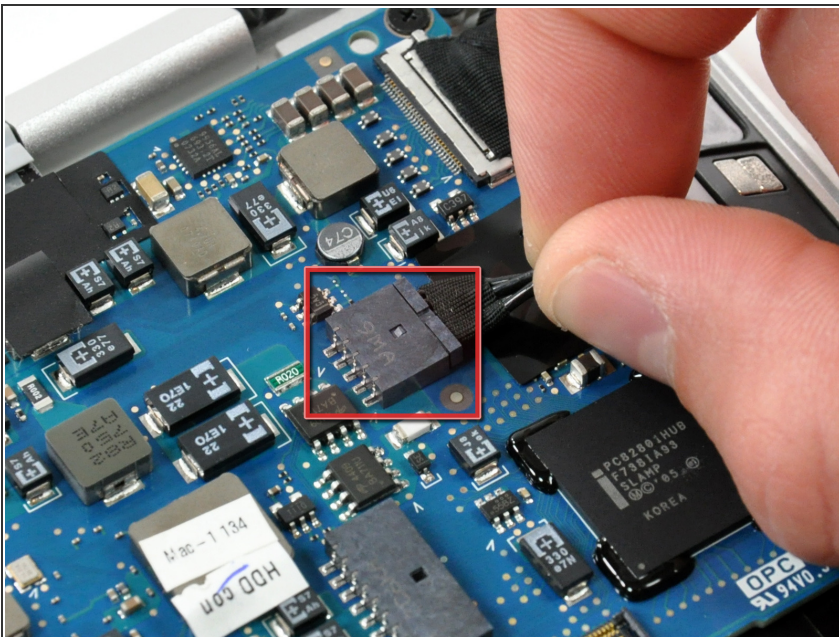
- Remove the two small Phillips screws securing the logic board bracket to the upper case.
- Lift the logic board bracket out of the upper case.

Step 21



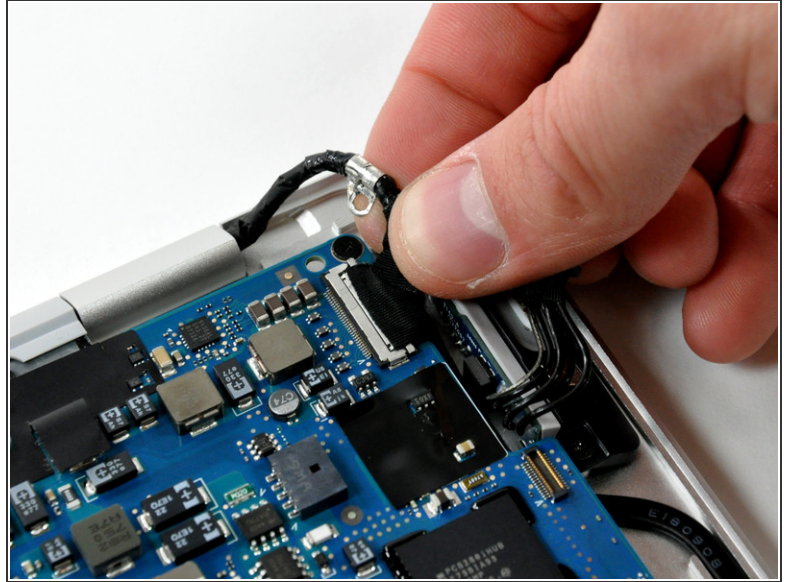
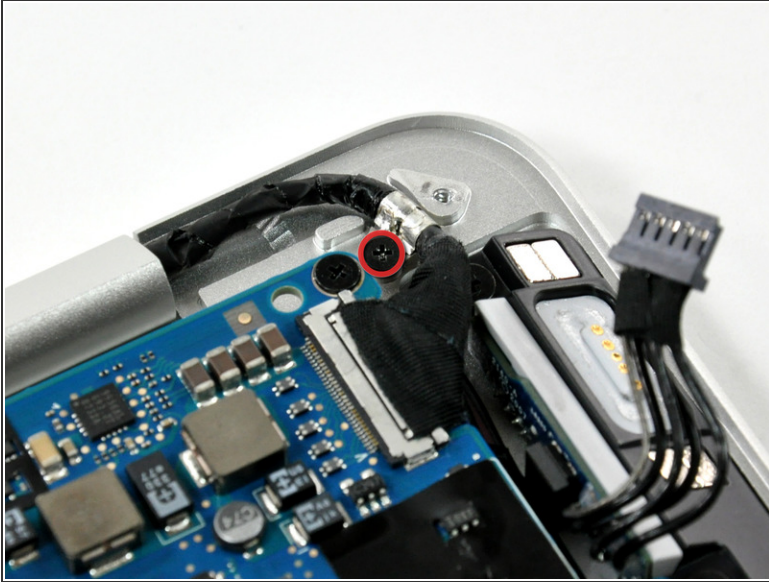
- Use a spudger to pry the AirPort/Bluetooth and trackpad control cable connectors up off the logic board.

Step 22



- Disconnect the DC-In cable by pulling its connector straight away from the socket on the logic board.

Step 23



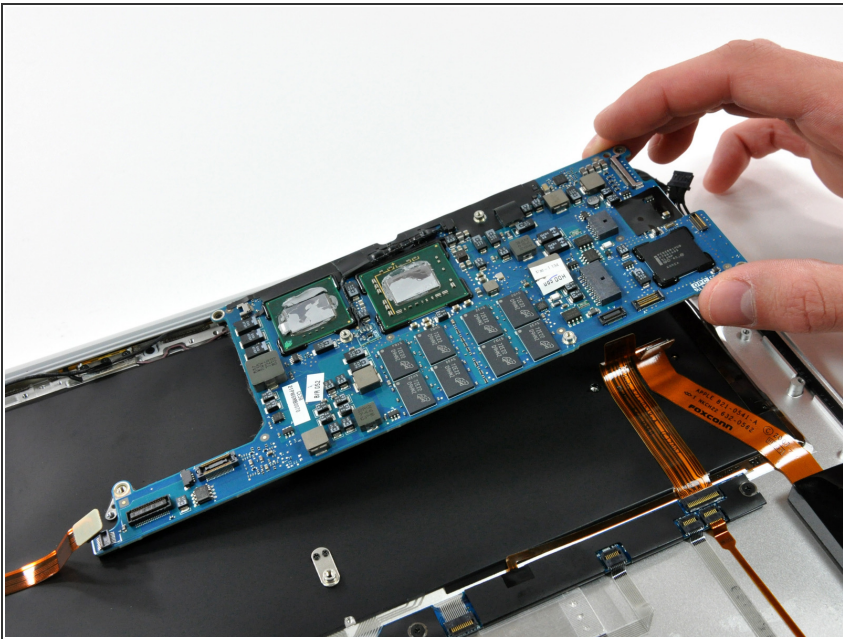
- Remove the small Phillips screw securing the display data cable ground loop to the upper case.
- Disconnect the display data cable by pulling its connector straight away from the socket on the logic board.

Step 24



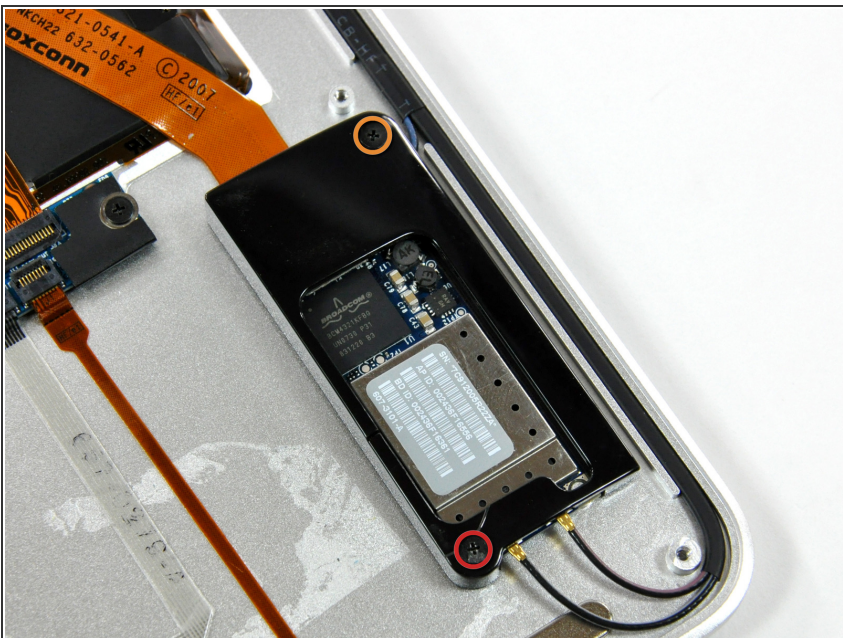
- Remove the three Phillips screws securing the logic board to the upper case.

Step 25



- Lift the logic board out of the upper case.

Step 26 — Display Assembly



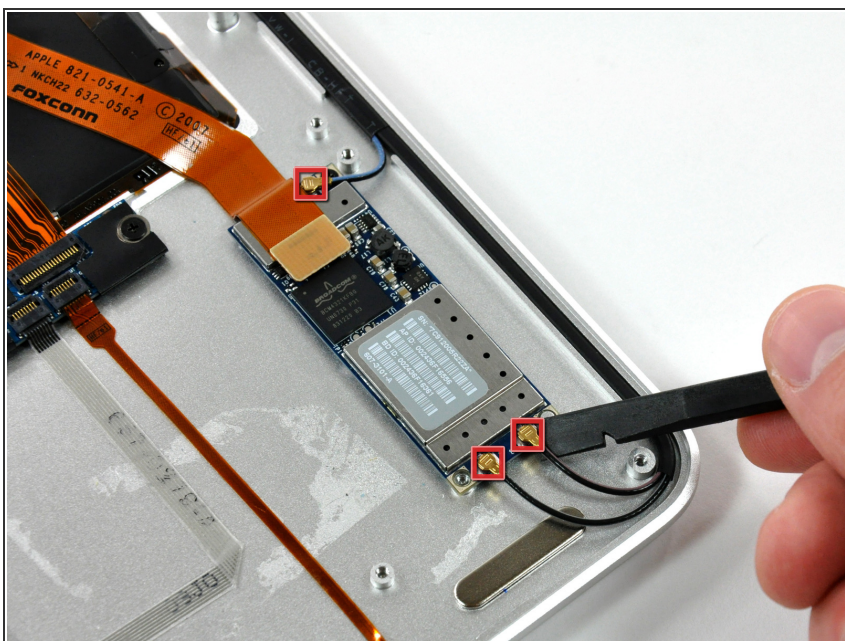
- Remove the two following screws securing the AirPort/Bluetooth board bracket to the upper case:
 - One 4.7 mm Phillips.
 - One 3.9 mm Phillips.

Step 27



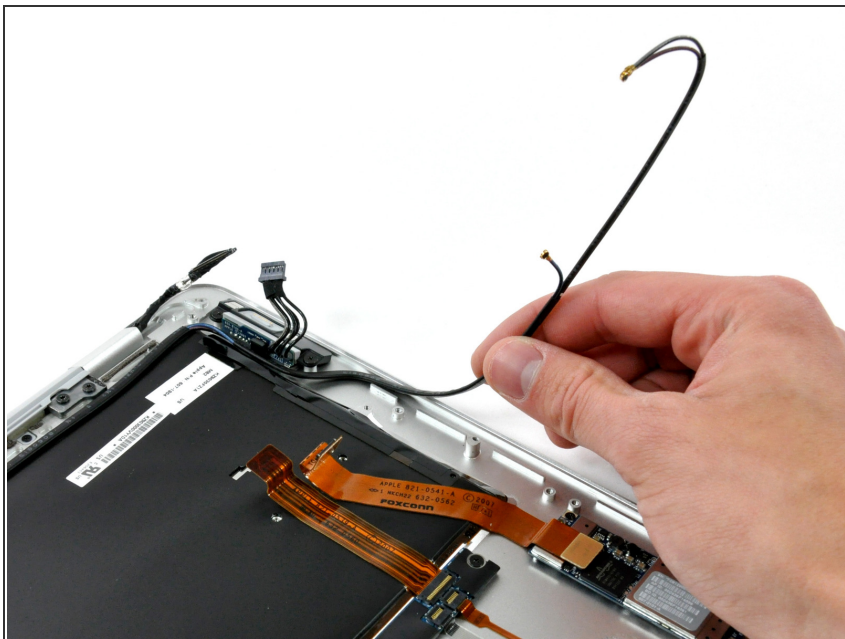
- Lift the AirPort/Bluetooth bracket out of the upper case.

Step 28



- Use a spudger to pry the three antenna cables up off the AirPort/Bluetooth board.

Step 29



- Peel the antenna cables up off the adhesive securing them to the upper case.

Step 30



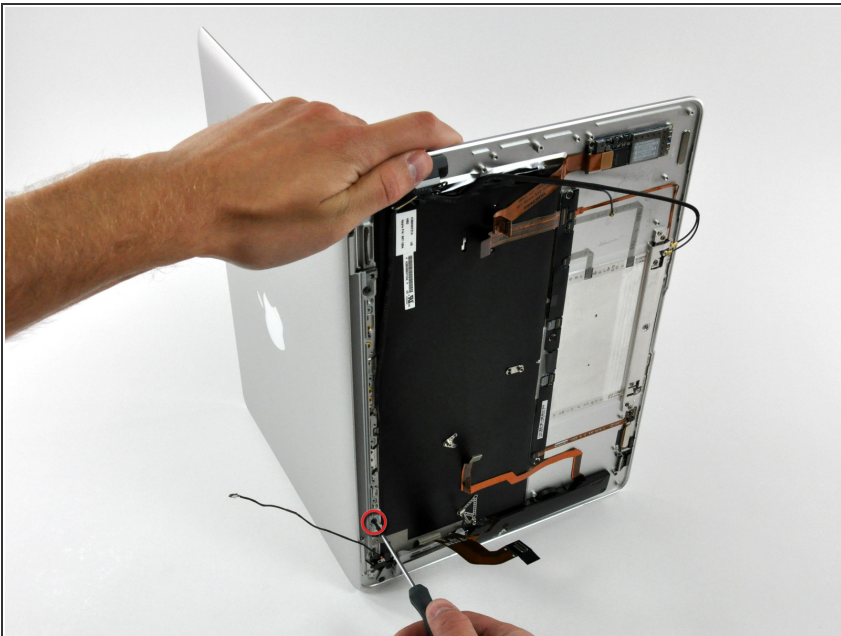
- Remove the single Phillips screw securing the microphone cable ground loop to the upper case.

Step 31



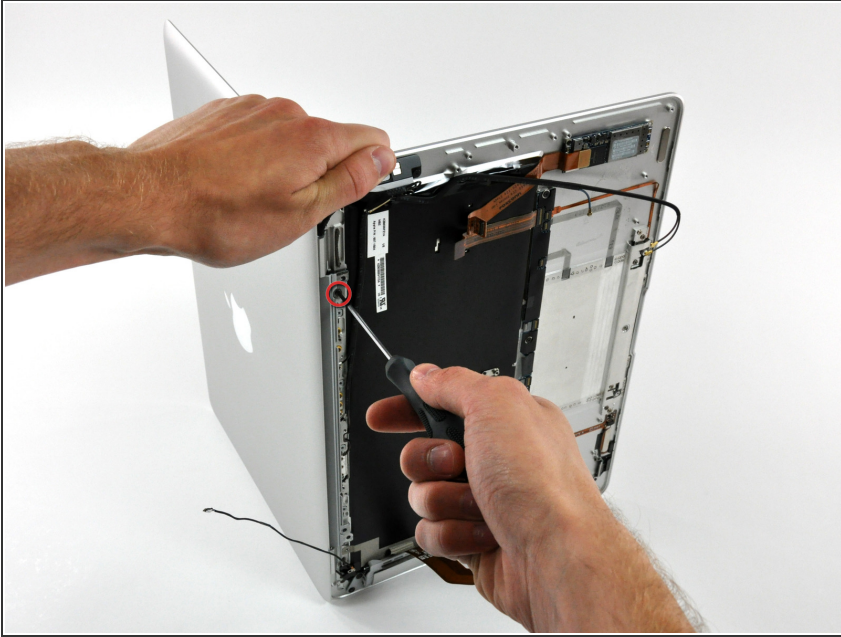
- Remove the following 15 screws:
 - Thirteen 2.3 mm Phillips.
 - Two T6 Torx.
- ⓘ Leave one T6 Torx screw in each side of the display bracket.

Step 32



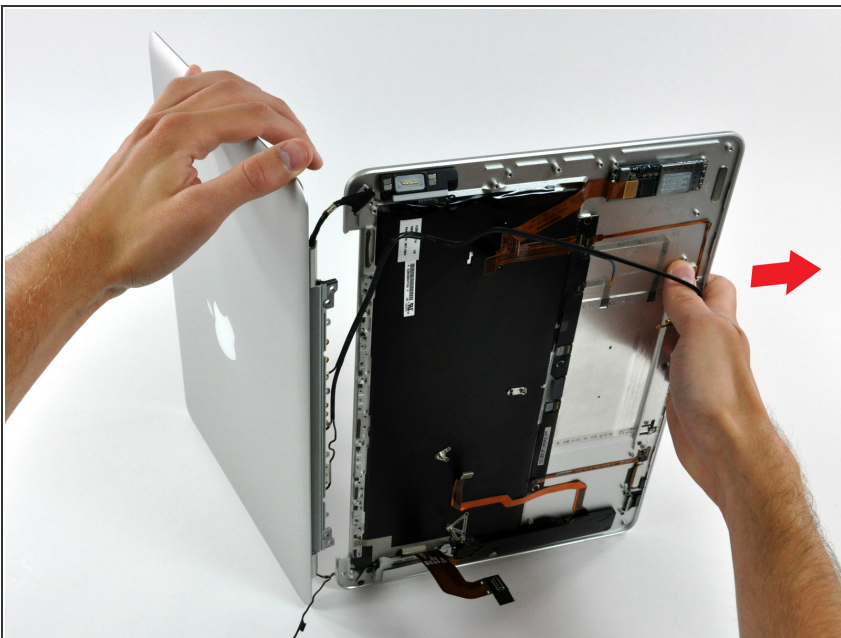
- Open the Air so the display is perpendicular to the upper case and place it on a table as shown.
- While holding the top of the Air with one hand, remove the T6 Torx screw from the lower display bracket.

Step 33



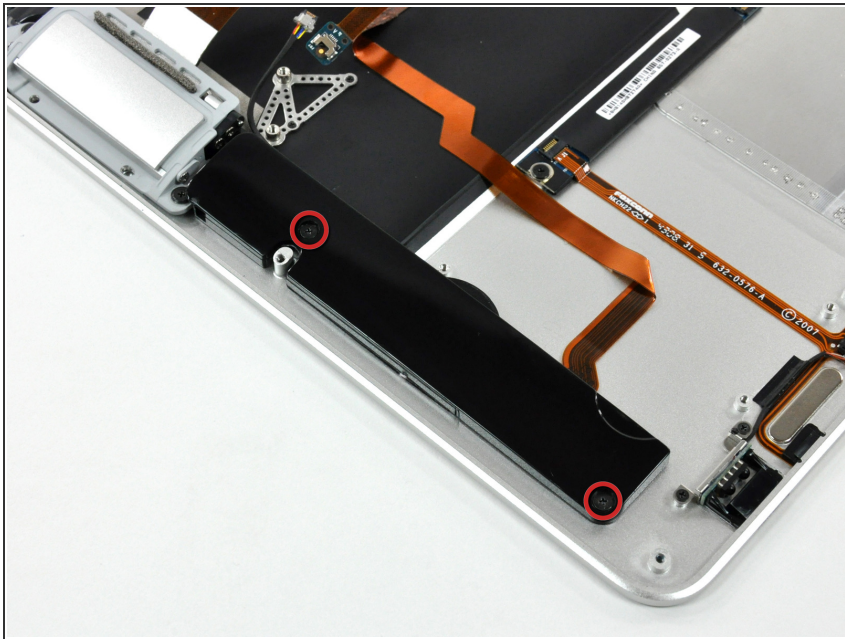
- ⓘ Be sure to hold the Air together while you remove the last Torx screw. Failure to do so may cause the display/upper case to fall, potentially damaging both components.
- Remove the T6 Torx screw from the upper display bracket.

Step 34



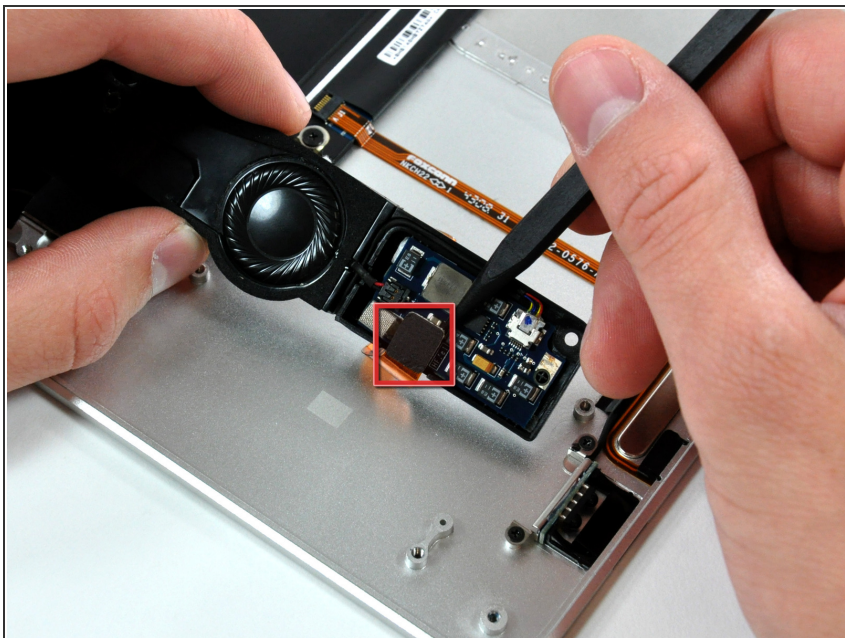
- Pull the upper case straight away from the display, minding any cables that may get caught.

Step 35 — Upper Case



- Remove the two Phillips screws securing the speaker assembly to the upper case.

Step 36



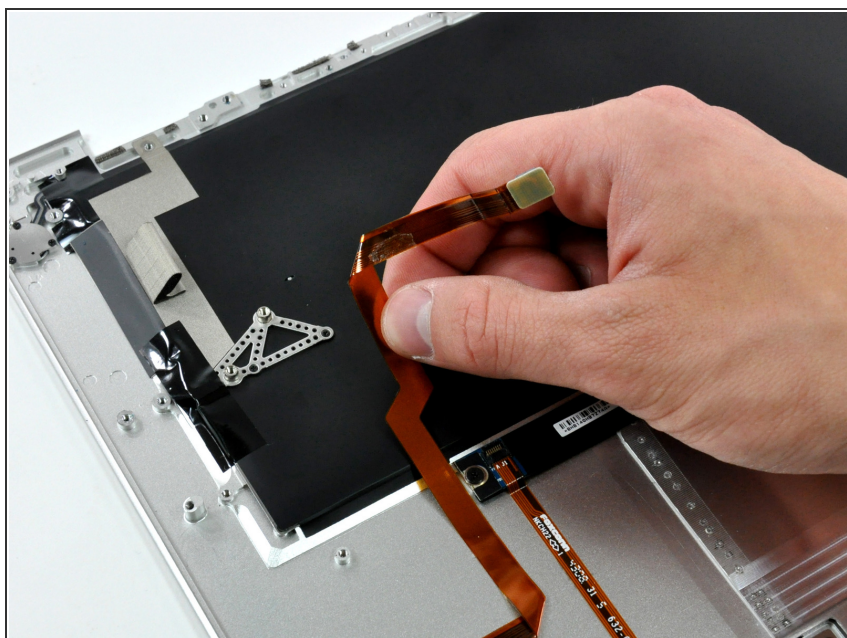
- Rotate the speaker assembly toward the center of the Air.
- Use the pointed end of a spudger to pry the audio cable connector up off the audio board.

Step 37



- Remove the four partially threaded Phillips screws securing the port hatch assembly to the upper case.
- Lift the port hatch assembly out of the upper case.

Step 38



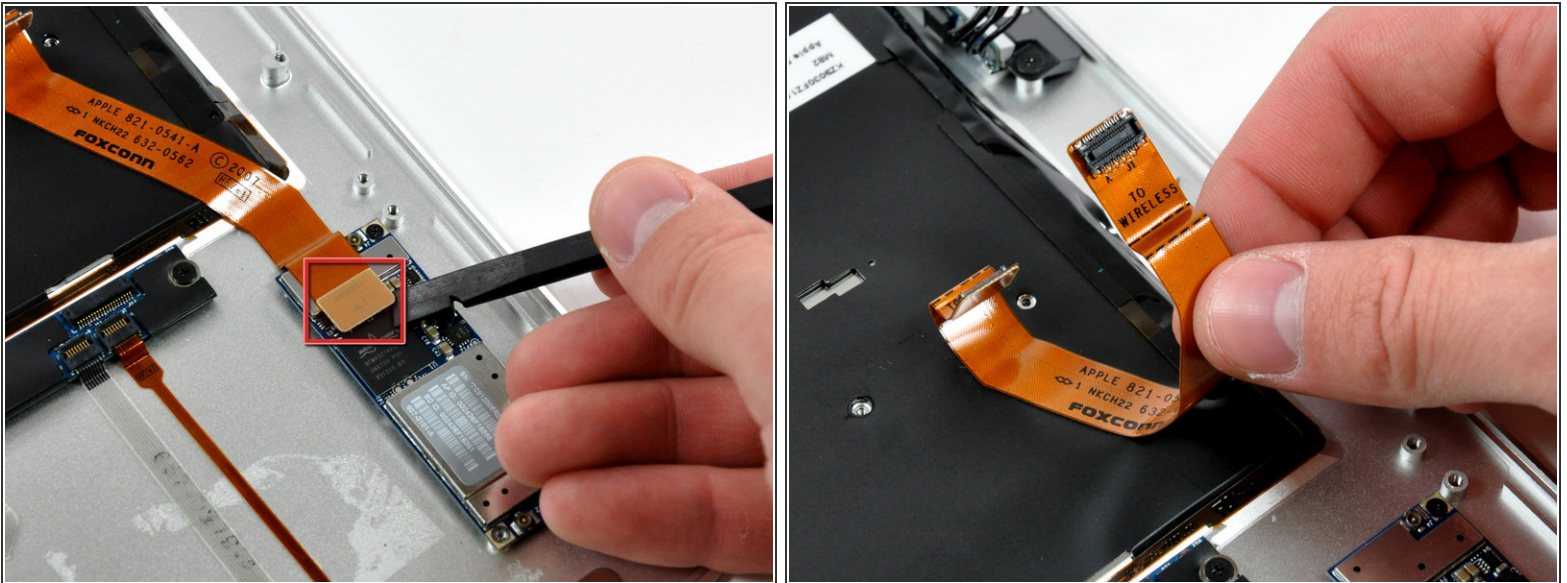
- Peel the audio cable off the adhesive securing it to the upper case.

Step 39



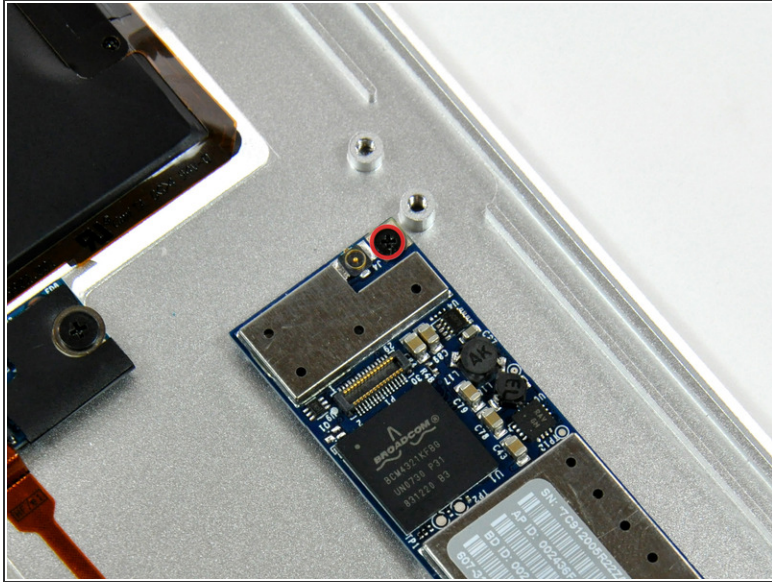
- Use the pointed end of a spudger to flip up the retaining flap on the trackpad control cable socket.
- Peel the trackpad control cable off the adhesive securing it to the upper case.
- Pull the trackpad control cable out of its socket.

Step 40



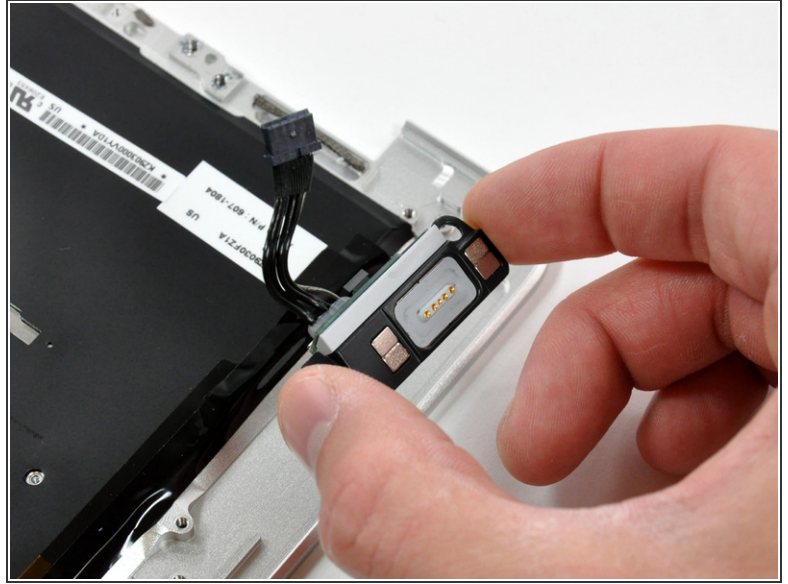
- Use a spudger to pry the AirPort/Bluetooth cable connector up off the AirPort/Bluetooth board.
- Peel the AirPort/Bluetooth cable off the adhesive securing it to the upper case.

Step 41



- Remove the single Phillips screw securing the AirPort/Bluetooth board to the upper case.
- Lift the AirPort/Bluetooth board out of the upper case.

Step 42



- Remove the two Phillips screws securing the DC-In board to the upper case.
- Lift the DC-In board out of the upper case.
- Upper case remains.

To reassemble your device, follow these instructions in reverse order.

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